

Healthy Kansas Minute Radio Interview – Disease Control and Prevention – National Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month

Joe: This is the Healthy Kansas Minute. I'm Joe Blubaugh, and with me is Allen Mayer, Director of the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. April is STD Awareness Month. Allen, what are STDs, and how would a person know if they are infected?

Allen: STDs are diseases that can be spread by having sex with someone who is infected with the disease. Most people aren't aware that they have an STD, because most don't have symptoms. If symptoms are present, they might include discharge or sores in the genital area, rashes anywhere on the body or painful urination.

Joe: If most STD's don't have symptoms, why is it important to be tested and treated?

Allen: Even though most don't have symptoms, they can do major damage to the body. For instance, chlamydia and gonorrhea can make both men and women unable to have children. In addition, most STD's can be passed along to children of infected mothers during pregnancy or child birth.

Joe: Thank you, Allen. To learn more about STDs, please visit our Website at www.kdehks.gov. This has been the Healthy Kansas Minute!